

Appl. No. 09/736,617
Amdt. dated March 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 32, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring next to Fig. 9, one embodiment of interaction between functional units is shown in block diagram form. In this simplified example, the functional units associated with the set top box 208 include a set top box resource 904, a printer driver object 908, an e-mail object 912, and a printer port resource ~~916~~ 914. During the normal interaction of these functional units, checkpoints are encountered that trigger authorization checks. Table 2 correlates rights to requirements for each functional unit in Fig. 9. The functional unit identifier serves to correlate the functional units with the rights messages 500.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

With reference to Fig. 8, some of the functional units of a set top box 208 are shown. Functional units toward the bottom of Fig. 8 are superordinate to the functional units near the top of Fig. 8. That is to say, functional units toward the top of Fig. 8 are subordinate to those lower in the figure. In this embodiment, superordinate functional units are responsible for imposing checkpoints on subordinate functional units. For example, the hardware 804 imposes checkpoints upon the BIOS 808, OS 812 and so on up the subordination hierarchy. The BIOS 808 imposes checkpoints on the OS 812, but not upon the hardware 804. Functional units in the same ordination stratum can impose a checkpoint on another functional unit in that stratum when they interact. For example, an application 816 can require execution of a checkpoint on a driver 818. One stratum, for example, includes a Java™ virtual machine 820, drivers 818, resources 814, data files 822, and applications 816. Java™ applications 824 run on the Java™ virtual machine 820.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

If the particular functional unit being installed is factory loaded, processing continues to step 1012 where the functional units are installed into the set top box 208. After embedding functional units in step 1012, processing continues to step 1016 where default rights 916 are stored in the set top box 208. Typically, the physical devices and most of the objects are factory installed such that the set top box is functional before shipment to the user. Certain objects 408, however, are loaded into the set top box 208 after fielding it.